

REMARKS

In the above-identified office action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 as anticipated by Dalen et al. Claim 4 has been rejected as unpatentable over Dalen et al. The Examiner has construed Dalen as having injection molded parts which are visco-elastic. Further, claims 3 and 5 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dalen in view of Guthrie et al. The Examiner has concluded that it would have been obvious to use an amplifier to amplify the output signal prior to the transmission into the system of Dalen et al.

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dalen in view of Guthrie and further in view of Chalmers et al. The Examiner believes it would have been obvious to amplify the detection signal prior to determining an alarm as taught by Chalmers.

Claims 8-9 and 10-11 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dalen in view of Guthrie in view of Chalmers and further in view of Basson. The Examiner believes it would have been obvious to employ a proximity monitoring system including a transmitter and receiver as taught by Basson into the system of Applicant's.

Further, claims 12-13 and 14-15 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dalen et al. and Guthrie et al in view of Chalmers et al. and further in view of Wilk. The Examiner has stated that it would have been obvious to employ a temperature sensor with movement detection devices as taught by Wilk in the combination of Dalen, Guthrie and Chalmers.

Applicant has amended the claims, combining claims 1 and 2, and as amended believes the claims now recite over the art of record. Claim 2 now recites that the void is formed by a partition wall made of a non-magnetic material with a magnetized rolling member sealed in the void and a magnetic sensor provided in the partition wall. The void is formed in a spherical or polyhedron form and the rolling member is a sphere or a polyhedron. The shape of the void and the shape of the rolling member permit the sensitivity of the movement detection sensor to be varied from very sensitive to not sensitive at all and any point in between.

The sensor of Dalen (cavity 1) has neither a spherical nor a regular polyhedron form; Dalen's cavity is in the shape of an ellipsoid, i.e., the sensor of Dalen is inclined, for example, 90 degrees from the indication of Figure 1, the function of the sensor will change. A sensor whose cavity is in the form of a spherical or a regular polyhedron as claimed herein, permits the sensor to take any attitude while maintaining the same sensitivity.

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Dalen's sensor does not have a visco-elastic body as required by claim 4, contrary to the statements of the Examiner. Dalen's magnet number 3 freely moves in lateral directions; this is because there is no visco-elastic body. In other words, whenever a sensor receives a vibration of any magnitude, the magnet member moves freely within the operational errors of the sensor. On the other hand, the sensor of the subject invention with the visco-elastic body shown in Figure 7, as the rolling member is surrounded by the visco-elastic body, with such a structure, rolling member 7 will not move even when it receives a vibration of considerable magnitude. Thus, the chances of operational errors of the sensor are small.

Applicant notes that the visco-elastic body recited in the claims is a body having both viscosity and elasticity. A solid body having a shapeless high polymer such as a natural rubber and gel or solution expanded with solvents are examples of visco-elastic body. Page 10, line 27 of the specification suggest that any visco-elastic body may be sponge. Thus, what is intended here in one embodiment is not a fluid, but rather a structure which may change shape in response to force but eventually, returns to its original shape.


All of the dependent claims retain the limitations of the parent claim which are each patentable in their own right as set forth above. Accordingly, each of the dependent claims should also be patentable.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and Applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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